

currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Twice Amended) An image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image input section, and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section;

managing execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

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2. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section for the image input job, and image data is read from the image storage section and output in the image output job.

3. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit is input in the image input job.

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an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

8. (Amended) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

9. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit is input by said input means in the image input job.

10. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein image data is output by said output means to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image.

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11. (Amended) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7,
wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables, which hold
information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

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12. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein
said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that
of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management
tables.

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13. (Twice Amended) An image processing system in which image data
input by at least one image input means is output by at least one image output means
comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters, which regulate
image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

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controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of
image data according to the image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining
means,

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image process of said one image processing unit
expressed by said image processing parameters obtained by said obtaining means into an
image input job in which image data is input by the image input means and an image
output job in which image data is output by said output means;

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(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

14. An image processing system according to Claim 13, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

15. (Amended) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said image input means inputs at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit.

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16. (Amended) An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said image output means performs at least one of image printing according to image data and image-data transmission.

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17. (Amended) An image processing system according to Claim 13,
wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables, which hold
information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

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18. An image processing system according to Claim 17, wherein said
controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of
the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management
tables.

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19. (Amended) An image input and output method according to Claim 1,
wherein said at least one input section includes an interface section for connecting to a
computer or a facsimile apparatus.

20. (Amended) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7,
wherein said at least one input section includes an interface section for connecting to a
computer or a facsimile apparatus.

21. (Amended) An image processing system according to Claim 13,
wherein said at least one input means includes an interface section for connecting to a
computer or a facsimile apparatus.
